

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

SITE VISIT / INFORMATIONAL HEARING

CALICO SOLAR PROJECT AMENDMENT



CEC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
1516 9TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Order of Presentations

Presentations

- **Hearing Adviser**
- **Public Adviser's Office**
- **Applicant**
- **Energy Commission Staff**

Discussion of Issues Identification Report

Discussion of Proposed Milestones

Public Questions and Comments

Role of Energy Commission

- Has primary jurisdiction in California to authorize thermal electric power plant projects of 50 MW or more.
- There are five members of the Energy Commission but two Commissioner members will serve as the Committee to evaluate the requested project modifications.
- The Committee will eventually issue a Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) that makes a recommendation to the full Commission to approve, reject, or amend the proposed modifications.

EX PARTE RULE

- The findings and conclusions made by the Committee and the Commission will be based solely on evidence admitted in the record of the proceedings.
- No off-the-record contacts concerning substantive matters are permitted to take place between the parties and the Commissioners, their advisors, this Committee, or the Hearing Officer.



Calico Solar Project Amendment

Application for Certification
Docket # 08-AFC-13C

Informational Hearing & Site Visit

Craig Hoffman – Compliance Project Manager

April 20, 2011



Energy Commission's Role

- **Staff evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision.**
- **Determine if the project, as modified, will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.**
- **Staff will review only the proposed changes to the project, not the entire approved project.**
- **Lead state agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**



Staff's Issues Identification Report

Purpose

- Inform participants of potential issues
- Early focus on important topics

Potential Issues

- On-Going Compliance
- Biological Resources
- Soil and Water Resources
- Traffic and Transportation / Visual Resources
- * Project Access north of the BNSF Railroad tracks (Pisgah Substation)



POTENTIAL ISSUE: On-Going Compliance

- **The Calico applicant must continue to ensure that compliance activities continue.**
- **Many of the conditions of certification will be required if the proposed amendment is approved.**
- **There are numerous conditions of certification that will remain unchanged that require the applicant's attention.**
- **This is not an issue that affects the processing of the proposed Petition to Amend.**



POTENTIAL ISSUE: Biological Resources

- **The Renewable Energy Action Team agencies are currently discussing discretionary changes to the desert tortoise translocation plan and the biological opinion for the Calico project.**
- **The translocation plan will need to be edited and approved by the agencies prior to the start of hearings on the amendment so that the public can have adequate review of the revised plan.**



POTENTIAL ISSUE:

Soil and Water Resources Resources

- Detailed grading and drainage control plans need to be developed for the project that address potential impacts and provide mitigation measures that will render hazards less than significant.
- Staff is concerned about access by the project owner to the project's water supply well north of the BNSF railroad tracks.



POTENTIAL ISSUE:

Traffic and Transportation / Visual Resources

- **Staff is requesting that the project owner provide a glint and glare study.**
- **Staff is concerned about potential significant impacts of glint and glare on users of the nearby traffic and transportation system.**
- **Staff will work with the project owner and BNSF to support the development of the study.**



POTENTIAL ISSUE:

Access

- The Applicant and BNSF continue to have discussions in regard to access and crossing the railroad tracks.
- The applicant is proposing to modify access to an area south of the railroad tracks.
- Staff needs to investigate a public health concern and have been denied access.



California Energy Commission

Staff's Proposed Schedule

ACTIVITY	DAY	DATE
Applicant files Calico Solar Project Amendment	--	3/22/11
Staff files Notice of Receipt	--	3/25/11
Staff files Issues Identification Report	--	4/14/11
Staff files data requests	--	4/15/11
Informational Hearing and Site Visit	--	4/20/11
Applicant provides data responses (last response)	Day 1	May 9
Data response and issue resolution workshop	Day 14	May 23
Staff Assessment (SA) published	Day 46	June 24
Staff Assessment Workshop	Day 64	July 12
Staff Assessment (SA) – 30 day comment period ends	Day 77	July 25
* Evidentiary Hearing	Day 84	August 1
+ Revised Staff Assessment	Day 100	August 17
Response to comments on the SA	Day 100	August 17
* Committee Recommendation to Commission	Day 106	August 23
* Commission Business Meeting	Day 121	September 7